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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/556,989	11/16/2005	Bernd Siber	3489	3906
7590 Striker Striker & Stenby 103 East Neck Road Huntington, NY 11743		01/27/2009	EXAMINER SMITH, MATTHEW J	
			ART UNIT 3635	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/27/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/556,989	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SIBER ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Matthew J. Smith	<b>Art Unit</b> 3635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8,10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 November 2008 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/146/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 16Nov05,16Jun08.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign mentioned in the description: recess 5 [0008].

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jameson et al. (4529976).

Jameson et al. disclose, in Fig. 7, a fire alarm which includes a base 8; a fire alarm insert 1 connected to the base; a covering cap 35 and a sheet 3a located between the covering cap and the fire alarm insert to cover the fire alarm insert; the covering cap detachably connectable with the fire alarm insert of the fire alarm; and the connecting means between the covering cap and the fire alarm insert configured as releasable detent elements.

This reference also discloses an installation set with a fire alarm which includes a base 8; a fire alarm insert 1; and a covering cap 3a detachably connectable to the fire alarm and a sheet 35 which includes replaceable sheets (col. 4, lines 51-55).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jameson et al.

Jameson et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed including a fire alarm with a base 8; a fire alarm insert 1 connected to the base; a covering cap 3a and a decorative sheet 35 to cover the fire alarm insert but not the covering cap convex in

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shape, the covering cap has a mat finish, at least in some areas, the sheet colored or has a pattern, the sheet colored on both sides or has a pattern on both sides, different colors or patterns being provided for each side of the sheet, or the sheet neutral in color and has a surface structure that can be painted in a common ceiling color.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cover the decorative sheet 35 instead of the sheet 35 on top of the cover since a reversal of parts would not yield a new or unexpected result.

It would have been further obvious to make the covering cap convex in shape or have a mat finish; the sheet colored, have a pattern, colored on both sides, have a pattern on both sides, different colors, patterns for each side of the sheet, in a neutral color, or have a surface structure that can be painted in a common ceiling color since these modifications are suggested by Jameson et al. (col. 4, lines 51-55), expected, and predictable.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jameson et al. in view of Burek et al. (4167688)

Jameson et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed but not the covering cap is transparent.

Burek et al. show a fire alarm 24 with a transparent covering cap 34.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the Jameson et al. cap transparent, as shown by Burek et al., in order to see the structure behind the cap.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Smith whose telephone number is (571) 272-7034. The examiner can normally be reached on T-Th, 8-3.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard E. Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Richard E. Chilcot, Jr./  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3635

/M. J. S./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3635  
17 November 2008